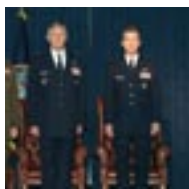




## **Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr.** Takes Up the DISA and JTF-GNO Flags

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## DISA and JTF-GNO Earn **Joint Meritorious Unit Awards**

By Carol Horen, DISA Corporate Communications

**D**ISA's and the JTF-GNO's military and civilian employees were recognized for exceptional service as the units received Joint Meritorious Unit Awards at the DISA/JTF-GNO change-of-command ceremony July 8 at Bolling Air Force Base.

Marine Gen James E. Cartwright, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, presented the JTF-GNO award to then-JTF-GNO Commander Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr. The award recognizes the achievements of the JTF-GNO from June 2, 2002, to July 8, 2005.

The citation reads in part: "The expertise and dedication of the men and women of the Joint Task Force were paramount to the reviewing of over 5,000 vulnerabilities and the subsequent release of 131 advisories that mitigated those vulnerabilities posing significant threats to the Department of Defense's systems and networks. Their proactive measures resulted in the approval of several new policies that protect the Global Information Grid, including the joint concept of operations for NetOps."

This is the second Joint Meritorious Unit Award for the JTF-GNO. The first was awarded when the JTF-GNO was known as the Joint Task Force-Computer Network

Operations, and it was given for the organization's exceptional service during the period of April 1, 2001, to June 1, 2002.

Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented the DISA award to then-DISA Director Raduege. The award recognizes DISA's achievements from Jan. 1, 2002, to Dec. 31, 2003.

The citation reads in part: "The agency's success during this time is due to tremendous advancements in the world of information sharing and situation awareness utilized by both the United States and coalition forces. These technological advancements have enabled essential command, control, communications, and intelligence components to operate efficiently and effectively. Superior planning and advanced engineering have been critical in providing services that are indispensable to the warfighters' ability to accomplish their mission."

This is DISA's sixth Joint Meritorious Unit Award. The previous awards were given April 17, 1992; Aug. 9, 1996; April 26, 1999; March 14, 2000; and March 3, 2003.

Several DISA subordinate commands have also earned the Joint Meritorious Unit Award. The Communications Management and Control Activity (currently Global Information Grid-Combat Support Directorate) received the award Oct. 24, 1985. The White House Communications Agency has received two awards, given Oct. 24, 1985, and Feb. 23, 1990. The Joint Spectrum Center was given the award Oct. 17, 1994. ▶



**Defense Information Systems Agency**  
Department of Defense



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# DISA and JTF-GNO Gain New Leadership

## Air Force Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr. Comes Onboard

By Carol Horen, DISA Corporate Communications

Air Force Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr. became the DISA director and JTF-GNO commander in a ceremony July 8 at Bolling Air Force Base.

Marine Gen James E. Cartwright, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, presided over the JTF-GNO change-of-command ceremony. Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presided over the DISA change of directorship.

"I promise I will give you my passion," Croom said upon accepting his new duties. Croom also took a moment to recognize forward-deployed service members as well as the DISA and JTF-GNO personnel who are supporting those in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Croom previously served as the director for Information, Services, and

Integration in the Office of Warfighting Integration, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. He was promoted to lieutenant general at a separate ceremony held earlier in the day at Bolling Air Force Base.

During the JTF-GNO change-of-command ceremony, Cartwright discussed the importance of the work that the JTF-GNO performs for the warfighter. Information needs to be processed and

given to someone who can use it, Cartwright said. "We need to make things happen at the speed of light," he said.

Cartwright praised the JTF-GNO for its teamwork and its willingness to undergo a cultural change in order to provide the warfighter with the services required for fighting in today's battles.

Cartwright also praised the new leader of the JTF-GNO and said, "Croom comes with my support."

Myers commended DISA and JTF-GNO personnel during the DISA change-of-director ceremony. "I think you've had a huge impact on our ability to fight in the war on terrorism," he said.



**In attendance at the DISA/JTF-GNO change-of-command ceremony were (from left to right) Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Marine Gen James E. Cartwright, commander of U.S. Strategic Command; Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., outgoing DISA director and JTF-GNO commander; and Air Force Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr., the incoming DISA director and JTF-GNO commander.** DISA photo by Donna Burton

"The single most important advancement in Iraq and Afghanistan was communications capabilities," Myers said. DISA has had an important impact on Department of Defense operations around the world, he added.

In turn, Croom accepted both the JTF-GNO and DISA flags and stated that he wished continued happiness and success for personnel in both organizations. ▶

## Comings & Goings



Air Force Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr. has been assigned as DISA director and JTF-GNO commander. Croom previously served as the director for Information, Services, and Integration in the Office of Warfighting Integration, Office

of the Secretary of the Air Force. Croom entered the Air Force in 1973 as a distinguished graduate of the Rutgers University ROTC program where he was the commandant of cadets. He has served in numerous positions involving information technology throughout his career, including director of mission systems for the deputy chief of staff for Communications and Information, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; director of Command, Control, and Communications Systems, Headquarters U.S. European Command; vice director for Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems, the Joint Staff; director of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Infrastructure, deputy chief of staff for Warfighting Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Croom has a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, both from Rutgers University. He also has a master's degree in management and business administration from Webster College.

Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., DISA director and JTF-GNO commander, retired July 8 after 35 years of service. The ceremony was attended by Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who praised Raduege's service to the field of communications, especially during Raduege's five years as the director of DISA. As DISA's director, Raduege led a worldwide organization responsible for engineering, developing, acquiring, and providing interoperable command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems to serve the needs of the president, secretary of defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, and other Department of Defense (DOD) components. In June 2004, the secretary of defense assigned and delegated Raduege additional responsibilities with U.S. Strategic Command as the JTF-GNO commander. As the first JTF-GNO commander, he was responsible for directing the operation and defense of the Global Information Grid to assure timely and secure net-centric capabilities across strategic, operational,

to provide effective global command, control, and combat support systems for the president, secretary of defense, combatant commanders, Joint Staff, military departments, and combat support agencies. His past assignments include serving as the deputy commander for support, U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, 9th Army Signal Command; executive officer to the Army's Chief Information Officer; battalion commander for the 54th Signal Battalion in Saudi Arabia; chief of the Operations Division and commander, Joint Staff Support Center, DISA; brigade commander for the 11th Signal Brigade and chief operations officer for the Network Enterprise Technology Command, 9th Army Signal Command. Bowman was commissioned in 1978 upon his graduation from Norwich University. He has a master's degree in public administration from Shippensburg University.



Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., DISA director and JTF-GNO commander, retired July 8 after 35 years of service. The ceremony was attended by Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who praised Raduege's

service to the field of communications, especially during Raduege's five years as the director of DISA. As DISA's director, Raduege led a worldwide organization responsible for engineering, developing, acquiring, and providing interoperable command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems to serve the needs of the president, secretary of defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, combatant commanders, and other Department of Defense (DOD) components. In June 2004, the secretary of defense assigned and delegated Raduege additional responsibilities with U.S. Strategic Command as the JTF-GNO commander. As the first JTF-GNO commander, he was responsible for directing the operation and defense of the Global Information Grid to assure timely and secure net-centric capabilities across strategic, operational,



Army COL Mark Bowman recently came onboard as the new DISA chief of staff. In this position, he coordinates the efforts of a 6,600-member organization and manages an over-\$6 billion budget. He directs staff efforts



► **Comings & Goings cont.**

and tactical boundaries in support of DOD's full spectrum of warfighting, intelligence, and business missions. Raduege has worked in the field of communications throughout his career, beginning in March 1970, when he was a student in basic communications-electronics at Keesler Air Force Base. He has supported command, control, and communications functions in assignments ranging from the Pentagon to Turkey. He has received numerous recognitions for his service, including the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

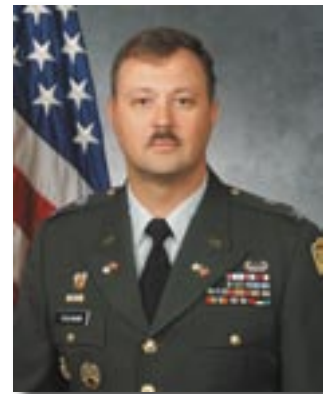


Air Force Brig Gen Stephen L. Lanning, principal director for DISA's Global Information Grid-Combat Support (GS) Directorate, has been assigned to the position of special assistant to the commander, Air Force Space Command at

Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. As principal director for GS, Lanning was responsible for planning, resourcing, implementing, sustaining, and evolving Global Information Grid combat support networks, computing services, applications, and information services that provide net-centric solutions for the president, combatant commanders, senior leadership, various Department of Defense agencies, and the warfighter. Lanning came to DISA in August 2002. He served as deputy principal director for Network Services and later, principal director for Network Services. In that position, he managed all agency-sponsored worldwide voice, data, video, and transport networks, their associated integrated network management system, and their access to the tactical environment through the teleport program.

Army COL James P. Kohlmann stepped down as commander of the DISA Continental United States (CONUS) Field Command July 15.

Army BG Dennis Via, DISA's principal director for Operations, presided at the ceremony. Via praised Kohlmann for his command of DISA CONUS and spoke of the many changes that took place during Kohlmann's tenure as commander. During Kohlmann's tenure as commander, the DISN Service Center and the CONUS Global NetOps Support Center seamlessly became unified as a DISA CONUS Field Command under one Joint Theater Distribution effective Oct. 1, 2003. DISA CONUS was also chosen as the lead network operations center for the historical initial activation, operations, and sustainment of the Global Information Grid-Bandwidth Expansion program.



Army COL Kenneth Harrison assumed command of the DISA CONUS Field Command July 15 during a ceremony at Scott AFB, Ill. Army BG Dennis Via, principal director for Operations, presided at the ceremony. Harrison comes to DISA

CONUS from the Army Network Operations Security Center, Network Enterprise Technology Command at Fort Belvoir, Va., where he served as director. Harrison's other assignments include serving as the deputy commander for the 7th Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command in Mannheim, Germany; and commander of the 141st Signal Battalion, 1st Armored Division, in Wiesbaden, Germany. Harrison holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Loyola University, a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University, a master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College, and a National Security Fellowship from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. ►

Looking Back...

## A DISA Director Reflects on His Tenure

By Carol Horen, DISA Corporate Communications

According to Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., DISA's recently retired director, there are four reasons why DISA is currently a very busy organization: the United States is a nation at war; DISA is transforming along with the Department of Defense (DOD); DISA is evolving as technology changes; and DISA is undergoing a revolution as the agency seeks to remain agile and flexible.

As DISA continues at its busy pace, it has also changed its leadership. Raduege retired July 8 in a ceremony at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., and Air Force Lt Gen Charles E. Croom Jr. took over as the DISA director and JTF-GNO commander.

In an interview given before his retirement, Raduege took a moment to reflect on his five years at DISA and where he sees the agency going in the future.

"When I first came to DISA, our customers

seemed to be somewhat unhappy with DISA's response and DISA's focus on their needs. I noticed this immediately," said Raduege. "With the Bush administration, transformation became a theme. Transforming DOD was important, as was strategic thinking about where we're going."

"I looked at the organization and believed we needed change," said Raduege. "We needed to become dynamic, become more relevant with the new [Bush] administration, and be more responsive to the needs of our customers."

During Raduege's tenure as DISA's director, the agency underwent three major organizational changes to better align itself to support its changing customer needs. DISA has also faced numerous challenges, such as responding to increased demands for operational support in Afghanistan, Iraq, and around the world. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Global War on Terrorism, and events such as the tsunami in southeastern Asia are events to which DISA responded with speed and precision.

"Never in my life did I think I would see the Pentagon in flames," said Raduege at his retirement ceremony July 8. "Yet, I'm so proud of all that you've [DISA] accomplished in support of the Global War on Terrorism."

The Global War on Terrorism is still ongoing, and DISA continues to move towards the future in supporting the warfighter with numerous network demands so that operations can continue to use all communications tools available. DISA continues to move towards what Raduege calls "the Big A, Big E, Big O, Big F, Big G, and Big S."

The "Big A" refers to acquisitions. "I think we're going to have a larger role in acquisitions in DOD. That's why we created the Component Acquisition Executive and put Diann McCoy in charge of it," said Raduege in his interview.

The "Big E" stands for engineering. "We need to increase the number of engineers and computer scientists. If we're going to build a network, we need to build the team that will support that network," said Raduege.

Operations, the "Big O," is exploding right now, according to Raduege. "The area of NetOps is expanding. Global operations is a large responsibility, a huge task. It's making networks more efficient," said Raduege.



**Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr. (right) receives recognition from Air Force Gen Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Myers praised Raduege for 35 years of exceptional service in the Air Force and to the nation.** DISA photo by Donna Burton



DISA's core competencies are networks, according to Raduege. "I've often said that networks are us. Our team has responded to Sept. 11 and the Global War on Terrorism. We're changing with growing requirements, namely network operations."

According to Raduege, governance is required as DISA runs the networks in the future. That is the "Big G" to which Raduege refers. "We need configuration management," he said.

The "Big F" refers to finance. "It means making sure the money we have been entrusted with by the American taxpayers is spent to the best it possibly can be. We're working towards a clean audit of all our finances," said Raduege.

Lastly, the "Big S" refers to sustainment, which involves doing a better job of sustaining the efforts of networks from beginning to end. It is critical that the strategic plan is achieved through the balanced scorecard," said Raduege.

Another item Raduege sees DISA continuing is its 500-Day Action Plan.

"Great organizations need to do five things: envision, plan, develop great leaders, motivate, and achieve. We can always show our vision and our plan through our 500-Day Action Plan. The 500-Day Action Plan has become part of DISA. It's all about customer support and commitment to our customers' needs," said Raduege.

The 500-Day Action Plan is a compilation of specific requests from combatant commanders to DISA. It is a way for DISA to know exactly what the combatant commanders expect from DISA, and it gives DISA a way of measuring its success.

The first DISA 500-Day Action Plan was released

in 2002. Of 140 items required by combatant commanders, 96 percent were completed. The second plan was released in 2004. Of 109 items requested, 98 percent were completed.

"This has been a tremendous success. It's something I never thought we could achieve," said Raduege.

As DISA continues to move ahead, the agency still has much to work toward —especially toward its biggest challenge, which, according to Raduege, is constantly trying to remain relevant in DOD.

"What we do is important," Raduege said at his retirement ceremony, citing examples of communications support in Iraq and Afghanistan. In order to ensure that the warfighters receive the support they need, DISA needs to ensure that the support it provides is the best possible.

"We need to realize where the nation is going. We need to make sure we don't become complacent," said Raduege in his interview.

Looking back over the past five years, Raduege said that he believed the biggest accomplishment is having been given the opportunity to work with DISA and JTF-GNO employees. "I'm so proud to have been a member of this great team. I look forward to seeing it continue to grow. I'll be watching and cheering from the sidelines as DISA achieves greatness. You've been magnificent in your support and sacrifice and dedication," he said.

At his retirement ceremony, Raduege praised the incoming leadership. "I have known General Croom for many years. I know he will continue to excel and provide outstanding leadership." ▶



## A DISA Team Serves On the Frontlines of the Global War on Terror

By Jim Ferstl, DISA Command Historian

### The Problem

**T**he Marines were a vital force for the liberation of Iraq and continued to be at the forefront of the rebuilding phase. The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (I MEF), assigned to maintain security in the Al Anbar Province, established several bases from which to operate. Tactical “on-the-move” communications that were used during the liberation phase were enhanced by more robust command, control, and communications

systems (C3), including network infrastructure.

Networks expanded and satellite links became congested as troops increasingly used the Internet to communicate with loved ones, conducted electronic banking, shopped for gifts, etc. This “morale, welfare, and recreation” use of limited bandwidth competed with C3 use, including very critical video teleconferencing. The Standardized Tactical Entry Point site in Germany was often 99 percent saturated with Defense Information System Network (DISN) services to Southwest Asia.

As efficiencies were lost, deployed Marine information technology folks were in need of a tool for near real-time network performance monitoring. DISA has such a tool in the Network Traffic Analysis System (NTAS). NTAS, among other attributes, can identify “top talkers” by Internet protocol address, in near real time, allowing network controllers to change router configurations to reduce congestion and gain network efficiencies.



(Left to right) Kenneth Blanks, Marine Capt Stuart Smith, and Parish Blair arrived at Camp Al Asad Aug. 15, 2004, and briefed the 3MAW staff. Shortly thereafter, they installed the Network Traffic Analysis System on 3MAW’s deployed SIPRNet and NIPRNet architecture and provided system administration and end-user training.

The Marines requested DISA’s support for NTAS installation, testing, and training for four Marine organizations. Those four organizations were Camp Fallujah with I MEF; Camp Al Asad with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (3MAW); Camp Blue Diamond (Ar Ramadi) with the 1st Marine Division (1MARDIV); and Camp Taqaddum with the 1st Force Service Support Group (1FSSG).

This was a new mission for DISA — information technology support at, literally, the frontlines. Net-centricity to the foxhole! After much discussion within DISA, the concept was approved. Further details were worked out with the Marine Corps and U.S. Central Command.

Three volunteers from DISA’s Global Information Grid–Enterprise Services Engineering Directorate (GE) went to Iraq, remaining there from July 31, 2004, to Sept. 2, 2004. They were:

- Marine Capt Stuart C. Smith Jr., joint command, control, communication, computer, and intelligence (C4I) analyst and team officer in charge. Smith had previously served in Iraq from February 2003 to June 2003.





**Camp Blue Diamond in Ar Ramadi is situated on the Euphrates River, seen in the background. (Left to right) Parish Blair, Kenneth Blanks, and Marine Capt Stuart Smith stand on the roof of a building that was likely a grand ballroom for Saddam Hussein's family. In the background to the right is the former palace of Hussein's son Uday Hussein.**

- Parish W. Blair, computer scientist, former Navy submarine electrician, and former DISA intern.
- Kenneth S. Blanks, electronics engineer, retired Army lieutenant colonel, and former tank officer.

They relied on fellow GE teammates in the Washington, D.C., area who were always available to help solve problems. The work schedule would call for four to 18 hours a day, seven days a week, under grueling conditions.

## Into Battle

While waiting at Taqaddum, Iraq, for a flight to Camp Fallujah, the team was introduced to warfare. Their trip report on Aug. 6, 2004, states, "At about [10:45 p.m.], we started hearing explosions far off, probably mortars. Blanks and Blair went to the berm at the back of transient billeting to see. We saw a few impact flashes, and then we saw tracers coming from the sky and explosions on the ground, probably rockets or Hellfire missiles. Very exciting, as this is the first shots we have seen while here, although we heard a

few mortars prior to this."

Aug. 8 to 15, the team was very busy at Camp Fallujah with I MEF briefings, NTAS installations on the NIPRNet and SIPRNet, training, and dodging missile and rocket attacks. The trip report from that time states, "During the briefing to the 9th Communication Battalion, we started taking incoming [fire], but Smith never flinched and just kept on briefing. Very professional!"

From Aug. 15 to 20, the team installed NTAS for the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing at Camp Al Asad. One mild complaint the team had was the 1.5-mile walk across the camp to the chow hall. But on the positive side, there was an all-you-could-eat supply of Danish ice cream.

From Aug. 20 to 24, the team installed NTAS at Camp Blue Diamond near Al Ramadi for 1MARDIV. The camp took incoming fire two of the five days the DISA team was present.

From Aug. 24 to 26, the team returned to Fallujah to provide an outbrief to the I MEF. Again, they found themselves under fire. As they reported, "En route to Camp Fallujah, our [helicopter] was targeted by small arms fire as we flew over some neighborhoods. We all heard two shots, and Blanks saw muzzle flash and tracers. The door gunner swung to face the direction it came from, but did not return fire because the right lateral limit of the .50-caliber would not allow the door gunner to get his gun on target. Needless to say, everyone was awake at that point. After this incident, the pilot began to employ a more erratic approach to the [landing zone]."

Blanks, at this point, was more concerned by the evasive action taken by the pilot than the threat of AK-47 fire from the ground.

► 10

### ► DISA Team in Iraq cont.

Early the next morning, the team was “very rudely awakened by incoming rocket fire.” The trip report continues, “The explosion sounded extremely close, and the ground shook quite a bit. Smith and Blanks both reported hearing the whine of the incoming [rocket] prior to impact, but Blair was deep asleep when it hit. We all high-tailed it to the bunker right outside the tent. Blanks and Blair were there in flak, Kevlar, and skivvies, but at least we were in the bunker. When we exited our billeting tent, an enormous cloud of dust filled the air. Later, we found the impact crater from the rocket. It was 200 yards or so from our tent, but it sure sounded louder than that! We got pictures of the impact area and some pieces of shrapnel from the nine-foot-long, 122 mm rocket. There was a piece of shrapnel over two feet long.”

Fragments of shrapnel hit one nearby Marine in the hand. Blanks tore up his bare feet on sharp stones while running to the bunker.

On Aug. 27, the team trained and outbriefed the 1FSSG network management personnel.

### Mission Complete

The trip was viewed as a tremendous success by both the DISA team and the Marines. During Smith’s first deployment to Iraq in 2003, he perceived a serious tactical network issue. The GE’s work in Iraq helped solve that problem. When Smith transferred to DISA following his first Iraq deployment, he found the technology, leadership, and dedicated staff that would go to the front lines in the Global War on Terrorism and take the Global Information Grid to the edge.

The team was recognized by DISA’s “Wall of Heroes” program, which honors stellar achievement by DISA personnel. They were each also presented with a framed letter from the director and a director’s coin as well as the GE director’s coin. Smith subsequently received the Joint Commendation Medal and was named DISA’s Company Grade Officer of the Quarter. Blair and Blanks both received the Civilian Meritorious Service Medal. ►

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## Air Force Master Sergeant Resolves Communication Problem in Africa

Air Force MSgt Terry G. Bailey, superintendent of Southwest Asia communications and assigned to DITCO-Europe, provided superior technical support while deployed to Djibouti, Africa.

He was tasked to investigate delays of critical circuit activation for four E-1 circuits at Camp Lemonier in Djibouti. Using complex communication analyzers, he conducted lab simulations of circuits, which identified timing, synchronization, and configuration problems with telecom-provided modem signaling across a microwave transmission link.

At the conclusion of research and testing, he discovered that, although the modems were of the same manufacturer they were different models and

were not operationally compatible. His diligence confirmed this important fact when he consulted the modem’s manufacture engineer. Until then, only company engineers were aware of this information.

Bailey reconfigured the new modems and successfully lab-tested a simulated circuit path in accordance with government specifications. He then placed the modems back into the network and successfully tested the circuit paths from the Camp Lemonier technical control ► 11



### ► MSgt Resolves Comms cont.

facility across microwave transmission link to the Djibouti Telecom multiplexer.

Bailey's resolution of circuit problems goes far beyond supporting our war fighters, and it had positive effects on relations between the U.S. and Djibouti governments.

Camp Lemonier represents Djibouti Telecom's largest customer, and it now contains the first data U.S. circuits to be activated in Djibouti. Bailey's support and technical advice to Djibouti Telecom resulted in improved cooperative relations between Camp Lemonier representatives and Djibouti Telecom management. The Djibouti Telecom managing director thanked him personally for his diplomatic efforts.

Air Force Lt Col Charles R. Boone, commander of DITCO Europe, said, "Master Sergeant Bailey was placed in a tough and demanding situation and excelled where others had previously failed. Having been assigned to [Special Operations Command Central] and stationed in Qatar with me during [Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom], MSgt Bailey truly understands the needs of the warfighter. He is a vital asset to the DISA mission and continues to foster our relations with our valuable customers in Southwest Asia." ►

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## Air Force Technical Sergeant Brings Housing Improvements to Bahrain

**A**fter arriving in Bahrain Jan. 24 and not securing an apartment until March 15, Air Force TSgt Brian A. Studinski knew there had to be a better way to get housing.

Studinski, a Theater Network Center (TNC) systems control officer with DISA's Combatant Command Support Field Offices, noticed numerous features of the Bahrain housing process that could be improved. Studinski proposed implementing improvements, and he found a way to improve the housing process for service members as well as save the government money.

One problem Studinski observed was that the lease process was complicated. Service members had to attend a class before they could even enter into a lease.

Once an apartment was found, the landlord would provide a lease, which involved a two-to-three day wait. The lease would then have to be turned into the housing office for review, which meant yet another wait of one to two days. Errors found in the lease could then add four or more days of delay.

Other problems included the rule that landlords based rent upon a person's rank, not what the apartment was actually worth. Also, the housing office had a 30-percent military occupancy rule on apartment buildings, which meant that no more than 30 percent of the building could be occupied by military.

Studinski suggested that the base housing office negotiate a fair price on a bulk number of apartment units, which would offer numerous benefits for both the government and service members. The housing office could lease longer terms for lower rates than apartment landlords. The apartments' property manager would give a better rate for a bulk number of units instead of single units because there would be security in leasing the apartments for long periods of time.

Additionally, service members would avoid having to negotiate for housing themselves. They would only have to report to the housing office in order to find lodging. The time spent in temporary lodgings would be reduced, saving the government money.

"Ever since Technical Sergeant Studinski came on board the DISA-Central TNC, he has always looked for innovations and improvement in the existing processes," said Air Force MSgt Darren L. Fox, Studinski's supervisor. "His suggestion about the contract housing is a great accomplishment, not only for himself, but for all junior enlisted personnel assigned in Bahrain. I am tremendously proud to work with him. He is truly an outstanding member of the DISA-Central TNC family." ►





A view of the new JTF-GNO command center, which opened in May. DISA photo

## JTF-GNO Opens New Command Center

By Tim Madden, JTF-GNO Public Affairs

**T**he JTF-GNO, which stood up as an organization one year ago, reached full operational capability (FOC) in May with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony to open its new command center. The new JTF-GNO command center combines the former DISA Global NetOps Center and the Department of Defense Computer Emergency Response Team Operations Center.

Marine Gen James E. Cartwright, commander of U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM), officiated at the ceremony, held May 10 in the National Capital Region. The JTF-GNO is a component of USSTRATCOM.

Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., the then-commander of the JTF-GNO, hosted the event, which was attended by more than 40 senior officials from the Pentagon, combatant commands, agencies, and services.

In his introductory remarks, Raduege said, "General Cartwright has told me on numerous occasions that we need to have a world-class organization, and we need to have world-class tools and capabilities to provide us with situational

awareness to protect our global network. This command center is our effort to achieve the type of global situational awareness we need to provide to our combatant commanders, military services, and defense agencies across the Department."

"With this new command center, by approval of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I am able to conduct my mission as assigned by the secretary of defense and my commander, Gen Cartwright, and declare full operational capability," Raduege said.

The ceremony was also an opportunity for Raduege and Cartwright to sign the first JTF-GNO 500 Day Action Plan. "This is a plan that was assembled in concert with our duly assigned component commands of the military services, and it will give us our focus for achievement over the next 18 months by allowing us to proceed with our global network operations mission," Raduege said.

Before introducing Cartwright, Raduege acknowledged the contributions of two people. One acknowledged person was John Stoklosa, an employee of DISA for 22 years who is now JTF-GNO's director for Telecommunications and Logistics and the project manager for the command center design and construction. The other was Cindy Faux, chief executive officer of CRC Group, the primary contractor in building the new command center.

"John was responsible for making sure this project



was on schedule, on time, and on budget, and he has delivered magnificently," Raduege said. "Cindy was responsible for the demolition of the old command center as well as the design and construction of this one."

In introducing Cartwright, Raduege noted the USSTRATCOM commander's academic achievement and distinguished career as a fighter pilot, calling him "the perfect example of a joint warrior and academic that we need in our military today."

In his remarks, Cartwright called the ribbon-cutting ceremony "a significant development for the Department of Defense and for USSTRATCOM's network warfare mission."

"We are taking another big step in putting the right pieces together in the right way to achieve effective interaction of all elements of our national defense," said Cartwright. "Secretary Rumsfeld has often noted that the single most transforming thing in our force will not be a weapons system. It will be a set of interconnections and a substantially enhanced awareness capability."

"Today we are invigorating network operations with a new center to complement the step we took nearly one year ago by establishing a new organization, with new people, new processes, and new priorities under the command of Lt Gen Harry Raduege. It codified an

important concept: the operation and defense of our global network is critical to our nation and our way of life," said Cartwright.

He continued, "This has been a journey, and it is not over by any stretch of the imagination. At some point, you come to a fork in the road, and the vision is either realized by a material capability or it turns into a hallucination. This is turning into capability. It is here. It is FOC."

Cartwright also noted that there's still much to be done. "We are more akin to pioneers than anything else in this venture. But this mission is real. What you are doing is real and it is critical."

He concluded his remarks with a caution: "Don't treat this as an end point. Don't treat this as a declaration; this is just a step. We have to keep moving because there's nothing but growth in this area."

Following Cartwright's remarks, he and Raduege signed the JTF-GNO 500 Day Action Plan, then cut the ribbon on the new JTF-GNO Command Center. Joining them in the ceremony were Army BG Dennis L. Via, the then-deputy commander of the JTF-GNO, and Air Force CMSgt David Nelson, the JTF-GNO senior enlisted advisor. The guests and official party were then taken on a tour of the Command Center by Air Force Col(S) Gary McAlum, director of Operations for JTF-GNO.

In a separate event, the Global NetOps Command Center was deactivated June 29 in a ceremony hosted by Army COL James D. Kirby, the then-commander of the center. The center, previously known as the Global Network Operations and Security Center, was formed in the early 1990s as a branch of the DISA Current Operations Division.

The Global NetOps Command Center was decommissioned as a command with a commander and became part of the JTF-GNO Operations Directorate as the Current Operations Division, responsible for the 24x7 Global Network Operations Command Center and operating at the leading edge of global network operations and defense. ▶



**(Left to right) Army BG Dennis L. Via, the then-deputy commander of the JTF-GNO; Marine Gen James E. Cartwright, commander of U.S. Strategic Command; Air Force Lt Gen Harry D. Raduege Jr., the then-commander of the JTF-GNO; and Air Force CMSgt David Nelson, the JTF-GNO senior enlisted advisor cut the ribbon on the new JTF-GNO command center. DISA photo by Donna Burton**

## Navy Petty Officer Impacts Community

By Sheryl Robertson, DISA Corporate Communications

For Navy YN1(SW) Nathaniel Rosenberg, volunteering is a way of life. The Palm Springs, Calif., native has been volunteering since he joined the Navy nearly 10 years ago, and he continues to stay involved while at DISA.

In his position as executive assistant to the senior enlisted advisor, he is involved in various DISA Joint Enlisted Advisory Council events such as DISA's recent Commander's Cup Tournament. He is also the newly elected president of Fort Myer's Better



Opportunities for Senior Soldiers organization, of which he was formerly the volunteer coordinator.

"The community has given to me, so I would like to give back to the community," said Rosenberg.

For the past two years, Rosenberg

has given back to the community's children, venturing into the classroom through DISA's Adopt-A-School program. He spends four to six hours each month working with a third grade class at Patrick Henry Elementary School in Arlington, Va.

Rosenberg helps the class during their math period. Sometimes he walks around to assist students while the teacher instructs, and other times, the class is divided in half so that he and the teacher can work with smaller groups.

Rosenberg has also used his experiences at DISA to help make lessons more meaningful for the students. When he was traveling to Europe on business during the same time the class was studying the continent, he sent postcards and pictures back to the class after he visited each country.

Rosenberg tries to spend an hour and a half each week with the students. He arrives before math class and spends a portion of the students' lunch period interacting with them.

Lunchtime "is a good avenue for students to ask questions and learn," said Rosenberg. "They realize that we [the military] are normal people doing good things." He rarely misses his weekly sessions with the students, and he makes arrangements to attend at a different time if other priorities arise at work.

In addition to his busy work and volunteer schedules, Rosenberg completed a bachelor's degree in information systems management from the University of Maryland in May. He believes his recent graduation served as positive reinforcement to students that education is important.

Because of his dedication to the program, Patrick Henry nominated Rosenberg for the Honored Citizen of Arlington County award. Each year, the Arlington School Board honors citizens who have made outstanding contributions on a voluntary basis to Arlington Public Schools. Nominees are individuals who are involved in school activities and have demonstrated a sustained commitment to the school system.

Though Rosenberg did not receive the Honored Citizen award due to a requirement that recipients are required to have volunteered in Arlington for at least five years, he was honored at a ceremony at Patrick Henry.

Elizabeth Jones, the Patrick Henry volunteer and partnership coordinator, told Rosenberg, "Through your contributions, you have made many faces smile, many minds have been enriched, lesson plans have been enhanced, and you have shown that volunteering can be as amazing as you make it."

For Rosenberg, the smiling faces are one of the main reasons he volunteers. "Every time you come in, they light up when they see you," he said.

The DISA Adopt-A-School program grants civilian employees or active duty military personnel up to four hours each month to volunteer at adopted schools. DISA has adopted four Washington, D.C., area schools: Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson Middle School, J.E.B. Stuart High School, and Isaac Gourdine Middle School. 🟡

# DISA Discusses Cyber-Defense at IA Industry Day

By Miriam Moss, DISA Corporate Communications

Cyber-space is becoming the battleground of choice as the Department of Defense (DOD) relies more heavily on information networks to store, analyze, and transmit vital information related to national defense. Information assurance (IA), the safeguarding of information on those networks, is fast becoming a vital aspect of today's warfighting environment.

DISA recently hosted an IA Industry Day to allow industry partners and DISA personnel to discuss IA next-generation product challenges and opportunities in the near-term and beyond.

Nearly 100 participants attended, with representatives from the Army, Air Force, and industry companies.

Several topics were presented during the session, including security information management, host-based intrusion-detection systems, enterprise sensor grids, and enterprise software initiatives. The discussion topics revolved around methods of identifying enemy attacks, isolating systems that have been attacked, decreasing reaction time to enemy attacks, and better reporting of incidents.

"We need an architectural framework that we are all going to buy into," said Richard Hale, DISA's chief IA executive. This architecture will need to move horizontally as well as vertically throughout DOD, and it needs to be implemented at the enterprise-level, Hale added.

To achieve a truly sound architecture, a collaborative effort throughout DOD, coupled with improved IA business processes and interoperable technology, is necessary. There are many IA products on the market, but the key issue is integration.

"Integration of technology is very important," said Lee Nelson, an information technology specialist from DISA's Global Information Grid – Enterprise Services Engineering Directorate. Nelson emphasized that the integration of technology, along with improved business and management processes, are key components to a sound architecture.

Currently, there are multiple points of entry

for attacks, and there are multiple managers of a network. Technology integration, along with enterprise processes, would reduce the costs associated with incident monitoring and response, and it would improve the overall effectiveness of IA strategies. An improved architectural foundation would permit the information network to be more agile, allowing for improved detection of cyber-attacks, more timely responses to attacks, and better information protection.

Appropriate IA strategies provide a more secure environment for information sharing between combatant commanders and deployed forces. "Identity theft for us is more than just about people, but knowledge about what we do," said Greg Weaver, a representative from the office of the Army chief information officer. The networks need to be secure because lost information could mean the difference between a successful operation or a failed one.

Because the cyber-world is constantly changing, IA products must continually evolve alongside technological advances. DISA's IA Industry Day is a proactive approach to ensure the continued progress and strength of IA technology.

DISA continually seeks innovative ideas in the quest to protect and defend the information network from threats today, tomorrow, and beyond as IA solutions are identified and implemented.

The next DISA IA Industry Day is slated to take place in late September. ▶



## DISA Central Field Command Stands Up



The DISA Central Field Command was designated a command and given a commander at a ceremony June 17 held at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Army COL Winston L. Davis Jr. stood up as the first commander of the DISA Central Field Command.

The command provides direct support to U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) from its locations at MacDill Air Force Base and in Bahrain. The new DISA Central Field Command is based off a DISA office that was founded in 1982 with a staff of four people. The command now has 115 people that consist of military, civilians, and contractors.

The DISA Central Field Command is responsible for engineering, managing, and operating the elements of the Global

Information Grid supporting the USCENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR), including the networks connecting the USCENTCOM headquarters with the AOR. The command provides satellite and fiber optic transmission networks to extend secure voice, data, and video services to command and control sites and deployed forces in the Central Region.

The DISA Central Theater NetOps Center in Bahrain provides 24x7 network management and control of the complex infrastructure supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Since 1982, DISA employees supporting USCENTCOM have provided capabilities to every contingency in the USCENTCOM AOR, from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm to Desert Thunder and Desert Fox.



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